GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3820
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2004
MECHANISM OF CENSORSHIP IN INDIAN TV CHANNELS
Mane Smt. Nivedita;Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu)

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any mechanism exists to examine the censorship in entertainment programmes telecasted on Television Channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; (

(c) whether the Government is aware that some of the programmes appearing on Indian Television Channels as part of the global media is against the existing cultural, ethics and traditions of India;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to prevent such programmes in Indian Television Channels; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CUTLURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (e) There is no pre-censorship of television programmes in India. However, programmes of all TV channels, transmitted/re-transmitted through the Cable Network are required to adhere to the provisions of the `Programme Code` prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code, inter alia, prescribes that no programme should be carried in the Cable Service, which offends against good taste or decency, contains anything obscene, denigrates women, or is not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition. Action for violation of the Code can be taken by any authorised officer under Section 19 of the Act and by Central Government under Section 20 of the Act.

Doordarshan being the Public Service Broadcaster is governed by its own Broadcasting Code, which ensures that all programmes are suitable for family viewing. Doordarshan also telecasts programmes reflecting India`s cultural diversity and heritage.

The Government is also contemplating a legislation to put in place a regulatory structure for broadcasting.